

# DISC Newsletter

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<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
Holiday Traditions	1
Employee Info	2
Winter Safety	3 & 4
Kudos	5

## DISC NEWSLETTER

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An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

## Holiday Traditions by Denise Moore

For most of us, the holidays are filled with traditions. Many handed down from generation to generation. As families merge, newer traditions are adopted. And it is never too late to start a new one.

One of the most popular holiday customs is the Christmas tree, decorated with ornaments, some new and some old. I always like to try something new each year with our tree. One year, we used only ornaments made by our children throughout their younger years. Another year, we shaped a bunch of big branches like a tree and decorated it with twinkling lights. This year we have only white lights and pine cones on our tree. I'm going for that minimalist look (that and I haven't found the box of ornaments from our move last summer). Surprisingly, the simplicity of the tree is still quite beautiful.

Another tradition in the weeks leading up to Christmas is baking (and eating) holiday goodies. This is the time to pull out those tattered, grease-stained tried and true recipes. One of ours is my husband's family date cookie. I don't particularly like dates, but it has turned out to be one of our favorite holiday cookies.

Another favorite family practice is to eat fresh baked caramel cinnamon rolls after we open our presents.

And then there's football. Most families have at least one sports fanatic which is a crucial part of their holiday. Luckily no one in my family is a football junkie so the games make a great backdrop for napping.

Let's not forget those lovely fruitcakes. Love them or hate them, fruitcakes are a part of the holiday season. I once heard a comic declare that there is only one fruitcake; it just keeps getting passed around from year to year. My sister-in-law, who likes to play jokes on me, gave me a fruit cake last year. I've kept it in my freezer all year just so I can return the favor this year. It may be a little stale and hard as a brick, but after all, it's the thought that counts!

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, or Diwali, appreciate the diversity that this time of year brings. Many different events, spiritual, religious, and tradition based, are being celebrated in many different ways during this time of the year.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Thank you for all you do to serve the people of Kansas.

Denise



## EMPLOYEE INFO

*Happy January  
Birthdays to:*



Mike Rodecap

Tom Heikes

Tammy Roy

Charlotte Thompson

Linda Schramek

Janel Johnson

Mary Grace

Jenney O'Brien

Gretchen Hefner

Rene Arce

Carey Brown

Dan Swearingen

Jean Pierce

## New Employees

Scott  
Shackelford  
BOCS  
12/19/05



Pat Tierce  
Enterprise  
Support  
11/28/05



Henry Hickey  
Central Mail  
12/19/05



Brandie Turner  
Central Mail  
12/19/05

## Births



Virginia Foley's  
Granddaughter  
Eva Neely Fuemmeler  
Born  
12-1-05



Shirley Perry's  
Grandson  
Donovan William  
Schneider  
Born  
11-14-05

# Winter Safety by Doug Quinn

Here it is the middle of December and we have already experienced two major snow falls. During both of the snows I witnessed some basic safety violations by many drivers. The first, and my pet peeve, is not clearing snow from all the windows, headlights and tail lights. The next is driving too fast for conditions, and trying to drive in snow the same as if the pavement were dry.

I thought the newspaper headlines after the first snow that read "Accidents Attributed To Snow", were misleading. The snow did not cause the mishaps, the drivers did. When I worked in safety, we had a saying: "There is no such thing as an accident". Mishaps can be prevented by taking the appropriate precautions, no matter what conditions prevail.

The following are tips for winter safety, including driving, personal safety and home safety:

## Dressing for cold weather:

- If you will be outside very long, wear several layers of loose fitting clothing.
- Wear mittens instead of gloves and wear a hat.
- Avoid overexertion. The strain from cold temperatures and heavy labor such as shoveling, pushing a car, or walking in deep snow may cause a heart attach in older and less physically fit individuals. (I know a woman who came home from work and found her husband lying dead in the driveway from shoveling snow)

## Winterize your vehicle:

- Avoid automobile gas line freeze ups by keeping your tank greater than half full at all times.
- Make sure your car has adequate antifreeze.
- Make sure your tires have good tread for traction and are inflated to the right pressure.
- Make sure you have a good ice scraper, a broom on one end helps remove snow.
- Have blankets and a bright piece of cloth to tie on your antenna if you become stranded.

## Before Driving or Traveling:

- Check the latest road conditions before you head out into winter weather.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you think you will reach your destination.
- Clean snow off the top, front, back, windshield, headlights and tail lights of your vehicle.

## If you become stranded in your vehicle during a winter storm:

- Stay in your vehicle.
- Run the engine for 10 minutes every hour for heat.
- Maintain proper ventilation by making sure the exhaust pipe is not plugged.
- Leave the windows that are away from the wind slightly open to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make yourself visible to rescuers. Tie a bright cloth to your antenna or door handle.
- Turn on the dome light at night, but only when running the engine.

## At Home

- Have your furnace checked.
- Seal any windows that you suspect allow cold air into the house with caulking or plastic.
- Keep a flashlight and extra batteries handy.
- Keep candles and matches handy for extended periods of electrical loss.

Continued on page 4

## Winter Safety continued

### If you lose heat in your home:

- Seal off any unused rooms by stuffing towels or rags in the cracks under the door.
- Cover the windows with blankets or sheets at night if you have some extras available.
- Use only devices that are designed for heating indoors during an emergency and use all safety precautions.

### Install and test smoke alarms in your home:

- Have fire extinguishers available to combat a fire due to the use of alternative heat sources.

### Winter driving:

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Stay alert, slow down and stay in control, the three key elements to safe winter driving. Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Avoid situations where you may have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface. To prevent skidding or sliding into something when coming to a stop, slow down gradually so the vehicle's wheels keep turning right up until the time it stops. This means preparing to stop long before you normally would.

It is critical for drivers to see and be seen in low light conditions, and when blowing snow may impair your visibility. Turn on your vehicle's headlights in poor visibility. Of course this will only work if your lights are not covered with snow. Two days after our last snow, there were people who still had snow covering their headlights and driving to work in the dark. You could barely tell their headlights were turned on.

In a skid, it is important to regain control of your vehicle, especially if it skids sideways. To do this, decelerate by taking your foot off the brake, step on the clutch or shift to neutral, then look where you want to go and steer in that direction.

The reason we get stuck in winter is that when you push on the accelerator, only one wheel pushes the car forward, the wheel with the least resistance. In this case, it is the wheel spinning on the snow. If you find yourself stuck on snow or ice with your wheel spinning, try holding down the brake pedal slightly. This will restrict the spinning wheel and transfer the power to the other. By keeping slight pressure on the brakes you can make both wheels work to pull you out of the snow. Have a safe and pleasant holiday season and rest of the winter.

# Merry Christmas

and

# Happy New Year



**Department of  
Administration**

**Division of Information  
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Meeting Our Customer's Needs

## KUDOS

### BOT

To: Dan Glotzbach

I would like to see Dan get recognition for his outstanding customer service. He has always and I mean always provided efficient and friendly customer service. He always goes the extra mile to help our portal. I think he deserves an award for the outstanding job he has always done.

From: Jeanine Morgan, Access Kansas

### BOCS

To: Kurt Dubach and Staff

Thanks to Kurt and his staff. They developed a budget/stars program in Access which is REALLY great! Five or six agencies use it. Thanks again. I really appreciate working with you and your staff.

From: Brad Williams, Board of Regents

### BIS

To: Marsha Rogers

Thank you for the power-strip. We have 3 servers up without their fail-over power supplies, but they are up and we can work with them. Your folks really are the best! Thanks

From: Randy Gregg, Commerce

To: Beth Zlotky

The Kansas Pay Center processed \$1,618,904.21 in child support warrants yesterday and were able to get the checks in the mail that afternoon. I want to thank you for all the help you provided Monday and Monday night to solve our DB2 problem. We wouldn't have been able to accomplish this without your assistance. This would have been a bad time of year for child support checks to be delayed, your time and effort in getting us up and running is very much appreciated. Thanks

From: Sherri Newman, SRS

### KITO

To: Bill Roth and Bryan Dreiling

I just wanted to tell you how successful the information flow diagram was, and to say thank you very much! While it does have a 'shock and awe' effect for first time viewers, it's clearly a 'tool without equal' in my opinion. There is no better way to show how an organization works, and the interrelated effects of one on another, than to create this kind of picture. My thanks to both of you for the hard and diligent work you put in this effort. Thanks

From: Gordon Lansford

# Great Work Everyone !!